

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ESSEX TOWN HALL
August 10, 2016 - 4:00PM**

The Essex Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 4:00pm. In attendance were Lon Seidman, Betsy D'Amico, George Sexton and Janet Peckinpugh. Also in attendance were Norm Needleman, First Selectman, Susan Malan Economic Developer and Kelley Frazier, Secretary to the Commission. Absent: Ed Cook, David Winstead, David Sousa,

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seidman at 4:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes to approve at this time.

INTRODUCTION

Visitors:

Janice Atkinson was present.

REPORT FROM TOWN HALL/CONSULTANT /ZONING MATTERS

Mr. Needleman hopes land use commissions can come to a consensus as to what the regulations should be adjusted to make things easier for prospective businesses to come to the villages.

Ms. Malan discussed her report which she previously distributed to commission members. She noted that Brick Oven Pizza has opened in Ivoryton. Scotch Plains Tavern, the former Oliver's, plans to open in October. Savour Bakery is hoping to open at the end of August. Essex House and Essex Station is being worked on. Cumberland Farms has been approved with conditions and will begin work in the fall that will involve demolishing the existing facility and reconstructing it.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Planning & Publicity for Joint Meeting with Land Use Commissions

The joint meeting with Zoning, Planning and EDC will be held on September 14th. EDC will have their regular meeting before the joint meeting. There will also be public comment included on the agenda.

Mr. Needleman will chair the meeting. The waterfront district needs to be addressed. An email will be sent to attendees of the EDC forum letting them know about this meeting. Ms. D'Amico and Mr. Seidman will work on this email. There was a discussion about videotaping this meeting. All Commissions need to agree to have it recorded.

Commissioners discussed the following items that are of concern and will be brought to the members of the other commissions at the meeting:

- Regulations currently prohibit Bed and Breakfast facilities or other similar uses.
- Zoning requirements related to liquor licenses and adjacent properties that limit restaurant growth
- Offsite disposal of septic.

- Permitting issues being difficult for small business owners.
- Classification for zones are too specific.
- The need for greater flexibility on mixed uses.
- Zoning regulations need to be proactive rather than reactive

Mr. Seidman will put the presentation together and send to the Commission for review. This will also be sent to the other Commissions before the September 14 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded the Economic Development Commission unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 5:10p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley Frazier, Commission Clerk